# Office of the Director of National Intelligence

From: [redacted] dni.gov

05 May 2021 0947

Mr. [redacted] ([redacted]):

My name is [redacted] for [redacted] All of your request(s) have been forwarded to me for disposition. Since 2005 you have submitted 10 requests for records. Too many requests for classified records brought up red flags, and we felt it best, after reviewing your requests, to handle all of this through a single office.

As you know, your work involved classified operations for at least three different intelligence agencies. These agencies have requested that all material involving those operations remain classified, which includes your work. All classified material is maintained classified originally for 50 years. The operations you were involved in would normally not be unclassified until 2030-2035. However, at the urging of then Vice President Biden, former President Barack Obama doubled the classification time of Central American operations and Operation Eagle Claw until 2085, at which time the then current executive and staff will review the material and determine whether declassification of the material is warranted.

While we sympathize with your difficulties in obtaining VA assistance, these materials and information are unavailable to them normally as release waivers are required through properly authorized channels that the VA itself must initialize. Simply tell them classified records are involved. Upon review redacted and relevant material may be provided directly to them.

The issue of your DD-214 is a closed matter. Again, while we sympathize with your inability to make use of that edited document, you will see below that it was the result of a compromise to provide you with an honorable discharge yet satisfy the the Command's need to "punish" you for what they deemed "betrayal of force structure". No amount of pressure will get the military to correct the document.

However, after reviewing your records, the debriefing records, and the associated CIA and DoDIA operational records, a team in this office (including a psychologist) have determined that you were punished far too severely and may have PTSD related to your assignments. While changing records is beyond the scope of this office (you may always appeal directly to the Office of the President), we have been authorized to provide you with some information concerning your unedited records, to answer a few of your pressing questions, and hopefully provide you with some closure in an operation that seems to bother you.

Records indicate you were awarded the Air Force Cross, 2 Silver Stars, 4 Bronze Stars, Defense Superior Service Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal, the CIA Distinguished Service Medal, as well as various other ribbons and awards. You were credited with eliminating over 300 enemy combatants (117 confirmed). These stunning achievements are born out of 18 combat assignments involving 14 operations, all of which were completed successfully, excepting Eagle Claw which failed due to human error of other personnel. All of these awards (excepting the CIA medal) were revoked upon your

military separation. This was part of the compromise which allowed you to have an honorable discharge. More drastic measures were contemplated, yet the former 1st SOW chaplain intervened forcefully on your behalf as he was convinced you were having a sincere crisis of conscious. You were left with your Marksman ribbon "to remind him of who he really is" (Major [redacted]). While you had friendly support from the Wing and SOS commanders, Major [redacted] was your program commander and he pushed for maximum punishment.

Your account and observations about Operation Eagle Claw are all correct. Limited information was declassified and released publicly. Major [redacted] was never on the ground in Iran, but he was well connected politically and was able to make claims and assertions without repercussions. Others soon followed and the multitude of stories and "first-hand" accounts by persons not there has flourished. There have been too many spreaders of disinformation, false names and narratives, but this actually serves the US interest in protecting still classified information, including your own, which serves the safety of yourself and others.

The following account (without location or names) is provided to you from debriefing records, operation records, and other sources. We hope this will give you some closure to an obviously distressing event in your life. In August 1981 you returned from a foreign mission and were debriefed in detail.

You were ordered to infiltrate an enemy mountain camp location and destroy their weapons cache and a stolen UH-1 helicopter which rebels had converted into a gunship, and destroy obvious personnel quarters. You were dropped 12.67km from the camp and traveled by foot on goat paths to a secure blind outside the camp. At 2215 you approached the camp and attached RC detonation explosives to the helicopter, weapons caches, and a personnel building. You returned to the blind and detonated the explosives, ensuring that the targets had been destroyed.

As you were leaving to return along the same path, you noticed the arrival of additional rebel personnel. They spread out in pairs for search in different directions and two were headed in your direction. You immediately left the area but the two rebels picked up your tracks and continued to follow you for approximately 5km.

At this time you realized that anyone who could track that well at night would follow you to your extraction point (the same drop zone) which may expose yourself and extraction personnel to a firefight. You also evaluated your orders that no evidence of US involvement could be left behind, and you felt your only option was to eliminate the following rebels. At the side of the path was a large tree. You split the side bark with your knife and pried it out enough to peer through and placed a trip wire across the path. When the first rebel tripped you sprang out and put your knife into the chest of a woman. It was clean shot to her heart and she died almost instantly, though you said she whispered "baby" clearly.

You removed the trip wire and propped her body against the tree as though she were resting. Having observed that they whistled for each other from time to time for conference, you gave three short whistles and hid behind a bush on the opposite side of the path. The second rebel approached and squatted down talking to the dead partner (checking her) and you emerged and drove your knife into his back with a twist. He died quickly without speaking. Concerned that the bodies may be discovered, you took infrared photos of the bodies and documents in their possession. You then dug a single grave off the path and buried them with their weapons.

After this you hurried to extraction and returned to your US base. In debrief you indicated the woman's last word, that the names on identification indicated the two were married, and she either had a baby left behind or she was pregnant. There was a heated argument with the Lt conducting the debriefing which ended in expletives.

There is a conclusion to this. In August 2007 an untraceable email with pdf image attached was sent to the consulate of the foreign country involved. This communication contained details of the incident without revealing responsible parties. The pdf image was a map showing where the bodies were buried. The State Department was called in and attended the exhumation and autopsies. The bodies were that of two rebels, man and wife, 28 and 26 at time of death. The woman died of a single stab wound to the heart, and the man died of a single rotary (commando) knife wound which tore the liver. The woman was approximately 45 days pregnant, and the CIA liason reported that the bodies had been buried with extreme care, side by side, with adjacent hands placed in a clasp. Though the CIA was sure who must have sent the email, the US Ambassador was overcome and a standing order was issued by the State Department that no action be considered or taken. The bodies were returned to their families for burial.

All reviews (AFSOC, CIA, SEAL Commander, DoS) declared you had no other options under your strict operational orders. The SEAL Commander stated that it would have been virtually impossible to take two prisoners alone and get back for extraction safely. Simply, you had no other choice.

You stated a feeling that all your assignments seemed like a whirlwind of intense activity, and indeed they were. Our psychologist feels you were not given adequate time or assistance to deal with these issues. We encourage you to seek assistance from a licensed psychologist utilizing your [redacted] plan to further work through these issues.

As I said, no amount of pressure will get the military to change records such as this, but we felt compelled to at least place a request to have original awards placed on the DD-214 and temove the negative monikers "Apathy" and "Defective Attitude" which we feel were unfairly applied. Honestly however, they are just going to ignore it and deny any punishment outside the authority of the UCMJ. Further, the military and political offices are filled with idealogues who still hold fast to old beliefs concerning Communism and its threats, and they are unlikely to look favorably upon your record after the point of conscientious objection.

Your record was exemplary, filled with intelligent decisions and planning, and only terminated by your objecting to unbalanced support of right wing governments. However, the point of reiterating these events and citations to you is to reassure you that you did indeed participate significantly and made the best possible outcomes from difficult situations. Some of your work contributed to a reduction in lives lost. In January 1981 you planned and successfully completed a mission to retrieve avionics equipment from a foreign military aircraft located on a foreign base. Data from that equipment helped the State Department in halting weapons and ammunition deliveries to rebels. The successful tactics which you developed have been used in training intelligence operatives in many agencies.

Your observations about the longevity of the Scout Program were correct. Scouts were to be a special operations replacement of Forward Air Controller and Forward Observer roles that dated from WW2 through Vietnam. AFSOC wanted to expand the role with the idea that individuals would act where SEAL or Ranger teams could not effectively operate. You were 1 of 6 in the program commanded by Major [redacted]. The 3 senior NCOs were mainly involved in training foreign troops. TSgt [redacted], who initially trained you, died in late 1981 in an automobile accident. SSgt [redacted]

[redacted] was called into your role when you left, and he was killed during his first mission in the new area. With this death the program was re-evaluated and was found to be outside the scope of AF ground personnel. New advancements in optics and technology, followed by the advancement of drone technology allowed much of the same capabilities while keeping personnel out of harm's way. The remaining senior program members were reassigned and the program shut down.

This is all this office is able to assist you with given the classified nature of material information. We will not be able to answer further inquiries, but as noted you may make direct appeal to the Office of the President at any time.

Your answer to whether you may write a book account of your activities is yes, with the exceptions that:

1) You may not use your own name or the actual name(s) of any personnel - military, governmental, or civilian;

2) You may not use actual Operation names;

3) You may not use actual operational locations;

4) The account should appear to be fictional.

This Office thanks you for your service and wishes you success.

Sincerely,

/// [redacted] ///

[redacted], ODNI
ODNI [redacted]